

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 24, 2004. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims of the present application were subject to a restriction requirement. The Applicant confirms the election of claims 1-17, without traverse. Claims 18-32 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. sections 102 or 103 as being unpatentable over Hochberg, Lee et al. '479, Kubo et al., Takahashi, Reber, or Yoshitake et al. The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 12 to point out the invention more distinctly. The Applicant respectfully submits that the invention is neither taught nor suggested by the references. The Applicant respectfully submits that the references do not teach or suggest a process that includes the steps of dividing a gray scale spectrum from black to white into predetermined number of gray scale level, assigning to each gray scale level a pattern of straight lines, wherein the pattern comprising an angular orientation and a line spacing, posterizing the gray scale image according to the gray scale levels, thereby identifying a plurality of regions in said gray scale image, and applying to each of the regions the line pattern assigned to the gray scale level of each region.

Appl. No. 09/945,349
Amdt. dated 09/24/04
Reply to Office Action of 03/24/2004

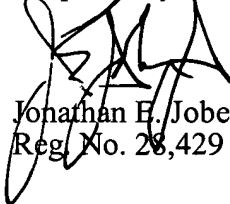
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 858-350-6100 .

Respectfully submitted,



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